

Graduate Studies in English

Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

Welcome to the Web site for the University of Delaware's Graduate Program in English. We appreciate your interest, and we encourage you to explore this site to learn about the distinctive opportunities and resources that make graduate study at Delaware particularly rich and rewarding.

Our program is highly competitive, and students earn the MA and PhD in literature by studying with an {In:Graduate Faculty Profiles 'internationally distinguished faculty} of over fifty full-time professors. The members of our graduate faculty are highly productive scholars whose books and articles bring credit to our program and unique research opportunities and {In:Graduate Courses 'innovative courses} to our students.

Like many graduate programs in English, we have strengths in a number of traditional areas of study (such as Renaissance and Colonial American). However, our program's strength is best defined by method, not historical period. Whether studying the impact of a new geographic consciousness in eighteenth-century America, the experience of Chinese immigrants in the American West, or religious non-conformity in 17th-century England, the members of our graduate faculty go beyond the literary text and into research libraries and archives in order to illuminate those texts and the cultural issues they address. This emphasis on archival research and material culture study is a distinctive part of studying English at Delaware, and it cuts across all of the traditional historical and national boundaries that normally define English studies. So wherever your interest lies, you will likely find faculty here who can lead you to exciting and unique research opportunities.

Because we understand that the academic job market is extraordinarily competitive, we admit a modest number of students each year (about a dozen). We emphasize the importance of producing original, publishable research and establishing a professional and varied teaching portfolio while in program. That way, when our students go on the market, they are poised to compete for good jobs. As a department, we have devoted a standing committee, the {In:Graduate Job Placement 'Job Placement Committee}, to the task of preparing our MA and PhD students for the academic job search. We invite you to see the results in our excellent {In:Graduate Job Placement 'placement record.}

Our program is housed in Memorial Hall, the most beautiful building on campus, located at the center of the University of Delaware's historic Green. But the real virtue of our location is its proximity to the cultural and academic resources of the East Coast. From Memorial Hall, you can drive (or take the train) to Philadelphia in under an hour, New York in two, and Washington in just ninety minutes. Our students and faculty, therefore, supplement the considerable resources that Delaware offers by making day and weekend trips to these nearby cities.

To learn more about our program, please explore this site and do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions or would like to discuss the prospect of graduate study in English at Delaware.

Sincerely,
Edward Larkin

Edward Larkin

Director of Graduate Studies

Department of English